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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 13 June 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

On Wednesday, 12 June 2013, in continuation of the slaughter of innocent civilians by armed terrorist groups, the Al-Nusrah Front added yet more carnage to its record when it committed a fresh massacre in the village of Hatla, which is located in the Dayr al-Zawr countryside, killing dozens of civilians, the majority of whom were women and children. The victims were killed for their refusal to support the terrorists in committing criminal acts against innocent civilians. The terrorists also vandalized and looted civilians' property and burned their homes, and they attacked, desecrated and looted houses of worship. Social networking sites posted video clips that prove the Al-Nusrah Front perpetrated this massacre, the commission of which was encouraged by Shafi al-Ajami, a *salafist, takfirist* religious leader in Kuwait, who has dispatched and funded thousands of jihadist terrorists to support the Al-Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups in Syria. The media have broadcast his statements in which he agitates for strife, hatred and killing in Syria.

In a series of letters addressed to you, the Syrian Arab Republic has assiduously sought to draw your attention the danger posed by the spread of extremism and terrorism, and has documented the crimes committed by the armed groups. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the refusal of certain countries to allow the Security Council to condemn the many terrorist crimes that have been committed in Syria has encouraged the armed terrorist groups to continue committing crimes against innocent civilians, including the perpetration of massacres, the indiscriminate firing of mortar shells at civilian areas and suicide bombings. The terrorists have also targeted residential buildings, the State's service, teaching and educational institutions, hospitals and Muslim and Christian houses of worship, and they have assassinated and abducted Muslim and Christian religious

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leaders, ransacked and destroyed ancient monuments and museums, vandalized tombs and abducted peacekeepers of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Such actions are in keeping with the terroristic, *salafist* method that Al-Qaida has diligently pursued.

Certain States of the region and from outside it, the foremost of which are Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are continuing to directly and openly support terrorism in Syria by providing funding, arms, training and safe havens for the armed terrorist groups. Those actions, as well as the recent European decision to end the prohibition on arming the "opposition" that was adopted under pressure from Britain and France, are a grave violation of the legal obligations arising from Security Council resolutions and international instruments concerning counter-terrorism. The European Union decision to authorize the purchase of Syrian oil, which the armed terrorist groups steal and then sell in order to buy arms and military equipment, is yet another violation of the European States' commitment to suppress the financing of terrorism and contrary to all relevant international resolutions, foremost of which is Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The Syrian Arab Republic once again warns of the dangers of supporting the *takfirist* terrorism espoused by Al-Qaida and executed by the Al-Nusrah Front and its allies the Islamic Brigades and the so-called Free Syrian Army, many units of which have declared their loyalty to the Al-Nusrah Front. It also warns of the dangers of ignoring such terrorism. Syria emphasizes that the continued provision by certain States of arms to the "opposition", or the declaration of a readiness to do so, under the pretext of changing the military balance on the ground, not only constitutes support for terrorism and terrorists, but also lays bare the intention of those States to hinder Syrians from arriving at a political solution under Syrian leadership and in a manner that respects the will and choices of the Syrian people.

By putting these facts before the Security Council, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is calling on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities under its own resolutions concerning counter-terrorism and to condemn the massacre that occurred Hatla in the Dayr al-Zawr countryside. The Council should also prevail upon those States that are supporting terrorism in Syria to desist from their practices, which are threatening security and stability in Syria and the region.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative